

L. Gentry

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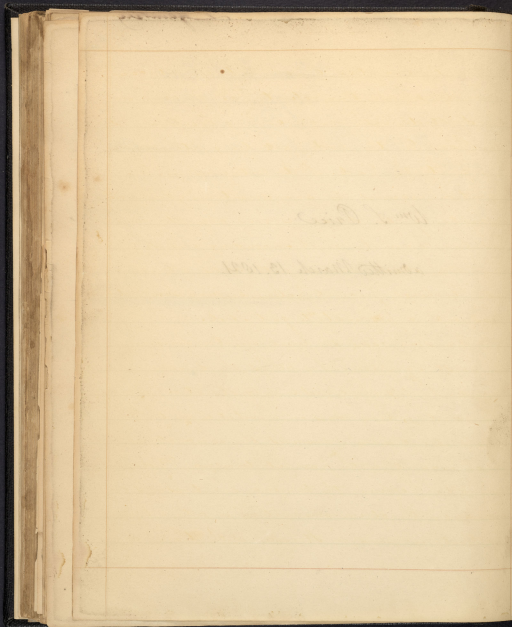
Williams Smith Price

No 74 South 11 Street

Brown

Wm. S. Price

admitted March 13. 1821.



Of Dysentery.

Cullen defined this disease to be a contagious fever, in which the patient has mucus or bloody stools, with much griping and tenderness, the face for the most part being retained—

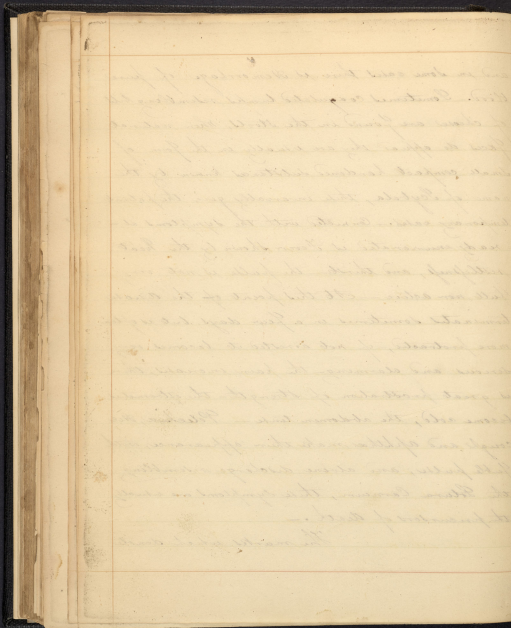
Up to the last of its contagiousness. His definition requires no amendment. Sydenham's description of the disease is very accurate, and has been copied by most succeeding writers.—

An attack comes on with chills alternating with flushings, frequent pulse, griping soon follows with a propensity to go to stool.—

In some cases the local affection however is the first symptom. In others the disease is preceded by loss of appetite—constipation—nausea and vomiting, then comes on Irritation of the bowels— as the disease advances the evacuations become frequent with painful termina, Blood is often expelled—the termina and tenderness are increased—the alvine evacuation is altered becoming frothy, mucus or streaked with blood, and

and in some cases there is Hemorrhage of pure blood. - Sometimes coagulated lumps resembling bits of cheese are found in the stools, when natural faces do appear they are usually in the form of small compact hardened substances known by the name of Scybala, these invariably give the patient temporary relief. - Connected with the symptoms already enumerated is Fever shown by the heat restlessness, and thirst - the pulse is not very full nor active. - At this point of the disease terminates sometimes in a few days. but is often more protracted, - if not arrested it becomes very serious and alarming - the pain increases, there is great prostration of strength - the extremities become cold, the abdomen tense - Petechia, Hic-cough and aphthae make their appearance, with full pulse, and alvine discharge resembling the Glutina Carneum, these symptoms are usually the precursors of death. -

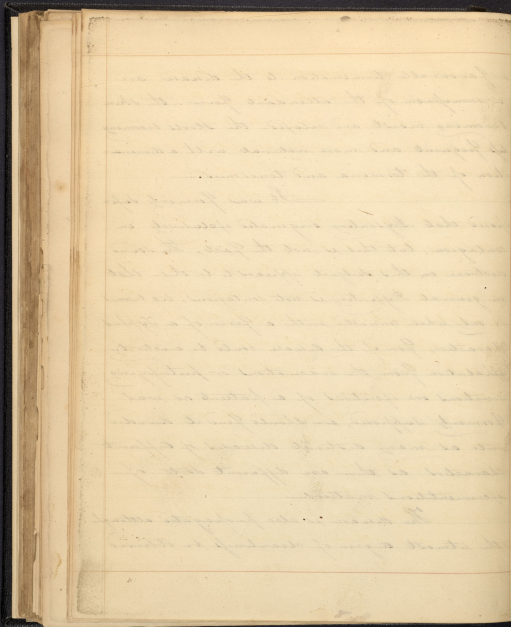
The marks which denote



a favourable termination to the disease are a remission of the attendant fever - the skin becoming moist and relaxed - the stools becoming less frequent and more natural with a diminution of the tormina and tenesmus.

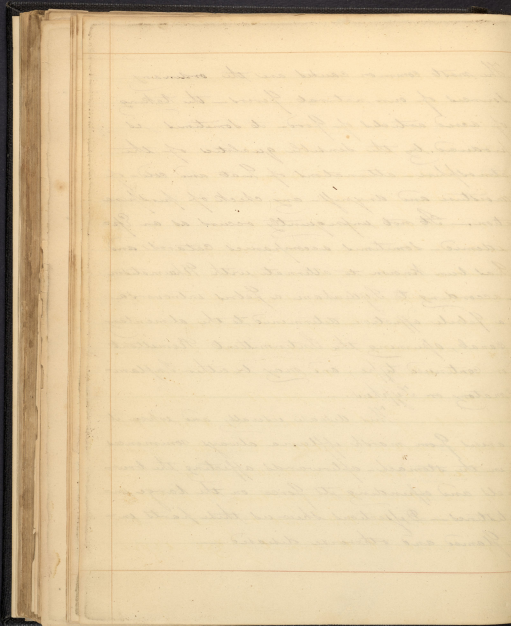
It was formerly supposed that Dysentery originated exclusively in contagion, but this is not the fact. The sound doctrine on this subject appears to be this - that in general Dysentery is not contagious, but becomes so only when connected with a fever of a typhoid character, For if the disease could be created by inhalation from the evacuations or putridifying secretions or excretions of a patient as was formerly supposed, we should find it divided into as many distinct diseases of different characters as there are different sorts of excrementitious matters.

The disease is also propagated although the utmost degree of cleanliness be observed



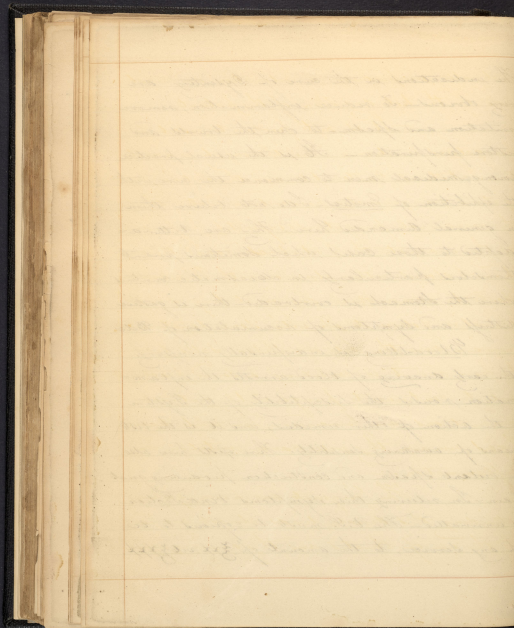
The most common causes are the ordinary sources of our natural Fevers - the taking of acrid articles of Food - it sometimes is produced by the sensible qualities of the atmosphere - attenuations of Heat and cold - of moisture and dryness - any check of perspiration. It not infrequently occurs as an Epidemic - sometimes accompanied catarrh and has been known to alternate with Rheumatism - according to Sydenham a Febris intro-versa a febrile affection determined to the alimentary canal, assuming the Intermittent Remittent or continued type, and may be either Inflammatory or Typhus. -

This disease usually and when it arises from marsh effluvia always commences in the stomach - afterwards, affecting the bowels and expending its force on the large intestines - Dissections shew us these parts inflamed and otherwise diseased. -



The indications in the cure of Dysentery are very obvious - To reduce inflammation, remove irritation and Spasm - to open the bowels and restore perspiration - It is the usual practice among medical men to commence the cure with the exhibition of Emetics - I do not believe them in general demanded here - They are better adapted to those cases which sometimes present themselves particularly in malarious countries where the stomach is overloaded - there is gastric distress and symptoms of accumulation of Bile

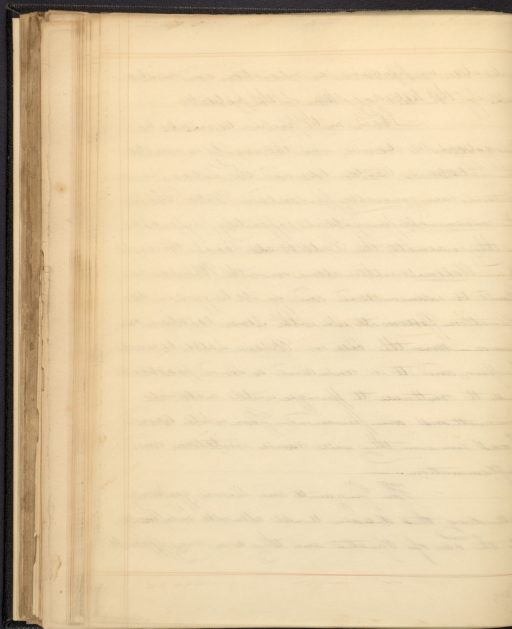
Blood-letting is indispensably necessary, the early drawing of blood arrests the inflammation & renders the susceptibility of the System to the action of other remedies, and it is the best means of awakening sensibility. These efforts here add a violent Spasm and constriction producing great pain - In relieving these symptoms Vena Section is unrivalled - The V.S. must be copious to be of any service, to the amount of $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. or $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.



by it also we produce a relaxation and moist-
ness of the hot dry skin of the patient

It is not proper to resort to
purgatives to cleanse and thoroughly evacuate
the Intestines, Castor Oil and the Saline pur-
gatives are generally prescribed - But I think
the mercurial purgatives infinitely preferable
as they evacuate the Intestinal canal thorough-
ly. - Calomel either alone or with Rheubarb
should be administered and if it lingers in its
operation follow it up with some laxative or
enema - Now the use of Epsom Salts becomes
proper, and it is considered a sound practical
rule to continue to purge until natural
evacuations are procured - For while hard
faeces remain, they will cause irritation and
inflammation.

The frequent and severe quivering
attending this disease leads almost necessarily
to the use of Opium and they are very effectual



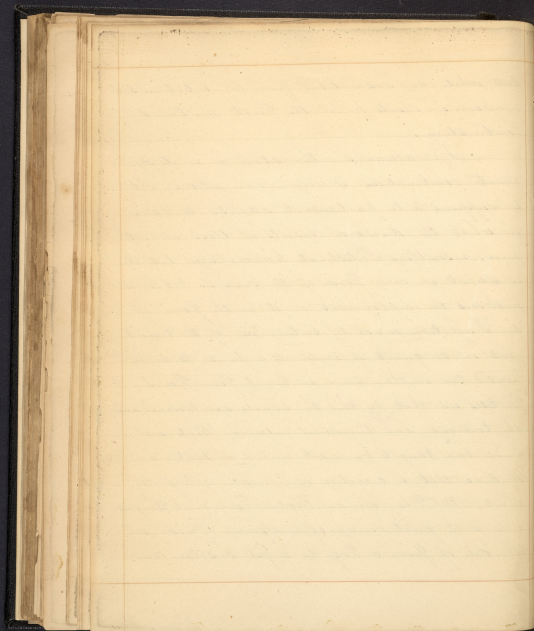
For this purpose, and to effect the two purposes together of keeping open the bowels and removing irritation, prescribe this opium in union with some mild evacuant. — it or should we neglect to determine to the surface, provided that arterial action and general excitement be sufficiently reduced by direct depletion. —

Emphorics then come in with great advantage and will commonly mitigate or completely arrest the progress of the disease. The following combination answers the purpose exceedingly well Gum Opii gr^{ss} Calomel p.p. to gr^{ss} xv Pulv. Spicaci gr^{ss} viij divided in doses viij to take one every two or three hours — this composes the irritation of the bowels and produces other sensible impressions on the disease — Calomel does good in the bowel affections, not less by the change of action which it induces, than by the purging. —

Dover's powder has been highly praised.

but while any evacuations from the intestines are necessary, we should prefer the first mentioned combination.

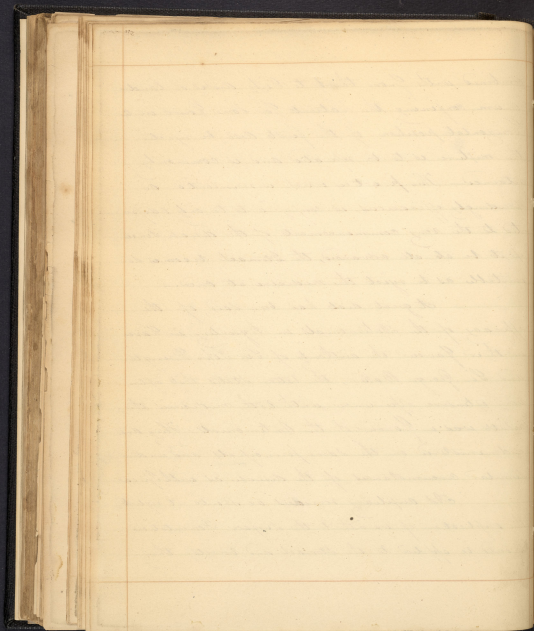
Thecacacanda either alone or in its different combinations is very much extolled, It is supposed to be particularly adapted to cases in which the discharge consists of blood almost pure, resembling Intestinal hemorrhage but it is useful in every form of the disease. Blackie proposes the employment of it in the form of an Injection made by boiling ʒij of the bruised root in a quart of water to a pint, to be repeated two or three times in twenty four hours. He tells us that by this the bowels are loosened and the tormina and tenesmus relieved. But we have been taught by most writers on Materia Medica that a decoction of *Spiceae* is perfectly inert, Mr Playfair an English Surgeon at Bengal uses with great success, as he affirms, *Spiceae* in the dose of from a Half to a Full drachm com-



combined with Gum thick to fifty drops of Laud-
-anum, confining the patient for some hours in a
Horizontal position - if the first dose be rejected
the mixture is to be repeated and is commonly
retained - This practice which is represented as
exceedingly efficacious, is confessed to be only adap-
-ted to the very commencement of the disease since
if it be at all advanced, the Stomach becomes so
irritable as to reject the medicine at once.

A great deal has been said of the
efficacy of the Antimonials in Dysentery, we have
in their favour the authority of Sir John Pringle
and Sir George Baker, the latter states that after
very extensive experience with both medicines the
result was in favour of the Antimonials - They are
administered on the same principles and under
similar circumstances of the disease as with Ipecac.

As auxiliary remedies we should not neglect
the application of warmth to the surface. Fomentations
should be applied to the Stomach and bowels, they

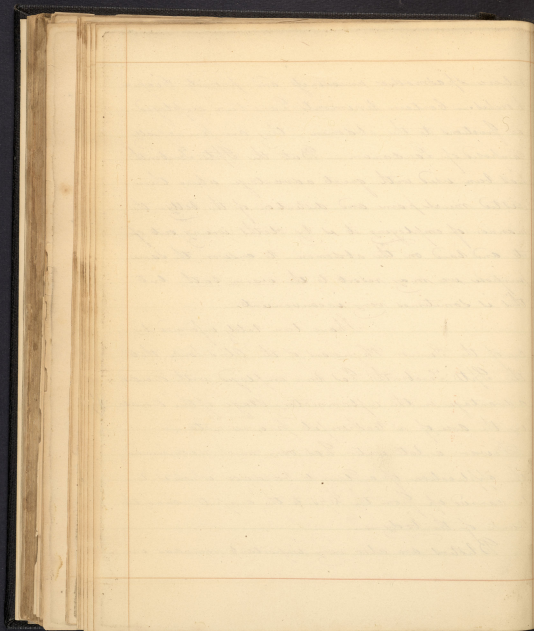


relieve spasmodic uneasiness and promote sleep-
-lessness. Certain liniments have been employed
as frictions to the abdomen - they are principally
composed of Laudanum - But the *Opth. Terbinth.*
has been used with great advantage, where there
existed much pain and distention of the belly - the
manner of employing it is by clothes wrung out of
it and laid on the abdomen - to answer the same
purpose we may resort to the warm bath but
this is sometimes very inconvenient.

I have been lately informed by
one of the Junior Physicians of the Alms-house that
the *Opth. Terbinth.* has been employed with decided
advantage in the inflammatory stage of this disease
in the dose of a teaspoonful *pro, re nota* -

Deiwar a late writer has very much recommended
the application of a Gamul bandage which is to
be carried up from the hips to the axilla round the
trunk of the body.

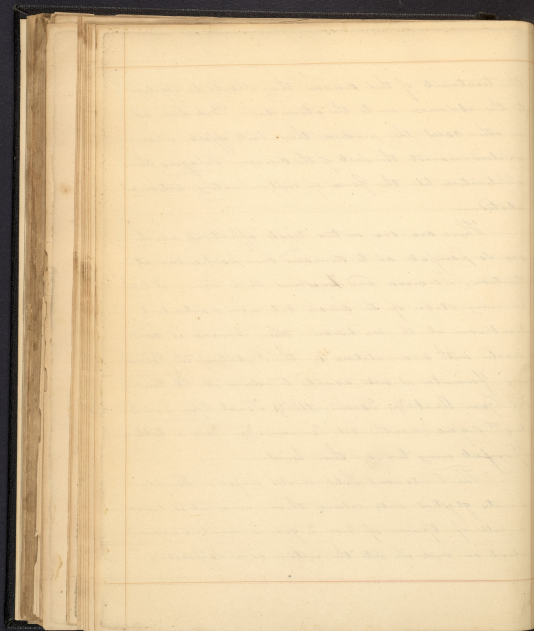
Blisters are also very important resources in



the treatment of this disease, they should be applied to the abdomen or to the extremities - But here as in other cases they produce their best effects when applied nearest the seat of the disease - delaying their application till the force of inflammatory action is abated.

There are one or two local affections which are so painful as to demand our particular attention, Hemorrhoids and Fissures these occur at times in every stage of the disease but more particularly troublesome at the conclusion—When Hemorrhoids is connected with accumulations in the Intestines the following formula is well adapted to relieve it. Ob. Ricinus ℥i Gum Arab: ℥ij Sacch: Alb ℥i Tinct Opri Lul ℥ x q^{ss} Aqua menth: vel: Cinnom: ℥ii Dose a table spoonful every two or three hours.

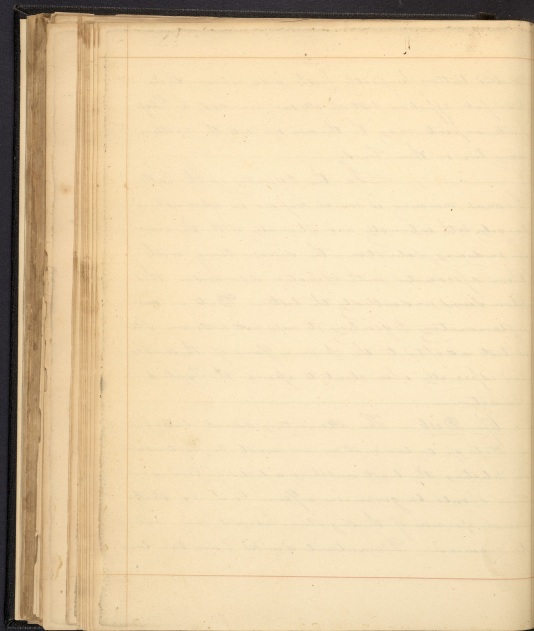
The Crotonaceous Sulph is also useful - Simple emetics glysters will relieve them - or what is better a pill of Opium of 2 or 3 grains may be introduced about an inch up into the rectum as a Suppository



melted butter perfectly fresh will relieve these
painful affections but of all our remedies, a Lax
plum or plum may be thrown up into the rectum
every two or three hours.

In the Dysentery of the East
Indias mercury is much confided in administered
largely both internally and externally with the view
of inducing salivation - the disease being with
them associated with Hepatic disorders - this
plan seems undoubtedly the best. But in our
inflammatory Dysentery it will not answer. It
is best adapted to the chronic form of the disease
and especially when about to assume the Typhoid
character.

Of Diet - The Alimentary canal being in
a state of inflammation we must be particular
in selecting the least irritating articles of food and
these should be given in a fluid form so that
much exercise of the digestive powers may not
be required. Demulcent drinks have been long

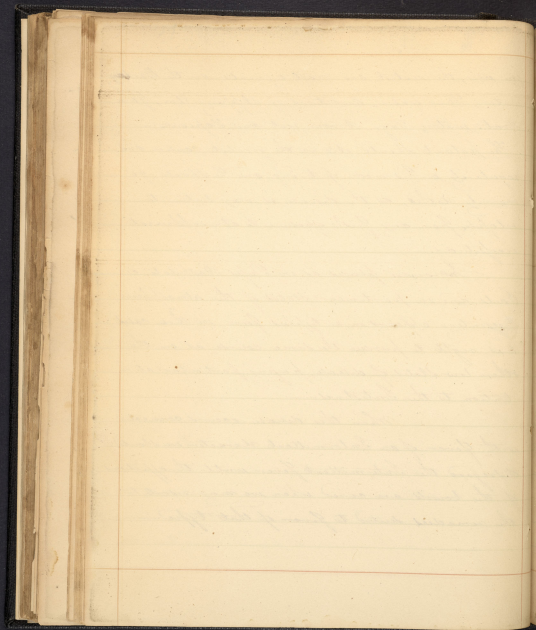


in use, the most and most agreeable are the Barley water, Rice water, decoctions of Slippery Elm, Gum Arabi: water, Sage Arrow root and Tapioca.

The patient should observe the greatest caution and regularity in his mode of living, and he should go warmly clothed, as the disease is very liable to relapse from any fresh exposure to atmospheric vicissitudes.

In crowded places as in Ships Hospitals or Sails and in particular states of the atmosphere Dysentery appears in a typhoid form, in these cases it is right to pursue the same course as in the other low states of disease, paying particular attention to the Intestines.

When this disease occurs connected with Fever of an Intermittent character we should disregard the Intermittent Fever until the affections of the bowels are cured when we may resort to the remedies suited to fever of that type.



Notes on

Psychology

by

Edwin P. Hilgard

March 10, 1921

